

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 52

October 2005

No. 8



Calendar

Wed. Oct. 26	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; traffic (see p 8)	Wed., Nov. 9	GIVES meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 7)
Sat., Oct. 29	Pumpkin carving, basketball courts, 1 pm; judging, 6 pm; haunting of Porcupine Woods, 7–8:30 pm (rain date Sunday); see p 3	Fri., Nov. 11	Film Society, <i>Pieces of April</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 8)
Sun., Oct. 30	Daylight Savings Time ends, 2 am; put clocks back 1 hour	Mon., Nov. 14	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Oct. 31	Schools Halloween Parade, 1:15-30ish (see p 8); Trick or Treat night	Tues., Nov. 15	<i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat. Nov. 5	Parks and Open Space committee meeting, Garrett-Waverly Park, 8:30 am (see p 5); deadline for submitting names for jobs list (see p 8)	Sat., Nov. 19	GPNS Arts & Crafts Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; last farmer’s market at Penn Place for the year
Tues., Nov. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm	Sun., Nov. 20	GPNS Arts & Crafts Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm
		Thurs., Nov. 24	Happy Thanksgiving from the <i>Bugle</i>
		Wed., Nov. 30	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm

Law and Ordure

I’ll start with the high point of the October Town Council meeting: Garrett Park, as you may know, exempts itself from county ordinances as a rule, but at our discretion we may include our town in selected ordinances.

One recent ordinance that we like a lot prohibits urination and defecation in public. So the Council during this meeting voted to vote (at the November meeting) on “an Exception to the

Exemption” (are you following this?) in order to allow county enforcement of the regulation within our borders.

If you want to find the new wording in our ordinances, look in Section 109 for the words “urination and defecation in public,” which will appear between the words “Massage Establishments and Massage Technicians” and “Plumbing and Gas Fitting.”

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2

P.O. Boxholder
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

(continued from previous page)

But let me back up and set the scene: A beautiful, mild October evening, the whole Council in attendance, and a pretty good-sized audience of townspeople. A loud cricket sang all night by the front door of the Town Hall. The Mayor’s cell phone went off at one point, and Councilmember Art Bennett, who will be Acting Mayor while Carolyn Shawaker goes someplace marvelous (Spain? Portugal?), answered it as part of his preparation for his new job.

Under citizens’ presentations, Barbara Shidler mentioned the upcoming Attic in the Street Sale (it will already have taken place by the time this *Bugle* comes out), and its new feature—a food table.

Barbara Jackson then addressed the Council, strongly objecting to Section 809b of the proposed parking regulations for Garrett Park, which would reserve parking in front of a house on Rokeby for the residents of the house. The Mayor said that parking ordinance questions had been tabled for the moment, but she thanked Barbara for her comments.

Tony Altar began the Councilmembers’ reports by noting the success of a recent hurricane relief fundraising party that residents of Weymouth Avenue threw. The Mayor, apparently an animal lover, remarked that she hoped some of the money raised might go to “critters.”

Hans Wegner said that there are more drain problems along Montrose Avenue during rains. Fixing them will probably cost the town around \$50,000 over the next few years.

Art Bennett reported that we’ve gotten three bids for work on the crumbling Town Hall front walk, the lowest of which is around \$8,000. Ted Pratt noted that we’ll need to wait until the spring for this work to get done.

Councilman Wegner also updated us on Strathmore Avenue matters. We now have six quotes for the stonework on the retaining walls, and we’re studying them. We continue to await samples of the lights we’ll be getting along Strathmore. And the state will be providing a new

planting plan for the Avenue, since there have been a number of problems with what the state originally put in.

Back to Altar, then, and a reminder about the meeting on the town speed limit that’s coming up. And over to Art Bennett, who proposed a town subcommittee to come up with a questionnaire that would try to get a sense of the town on the subject of zoning and overlay issues. A subcommittee was duly appointed, composed of Benjamin, Bennett, and Soltan.

In the Town Administrator Report, Ted Pratt said many things involving numbers, columns of numbers, and categories within columns of numbers. The one thing that stood out for me, though I’m not even sure whether it’s good or bad news (good, I think), is that we will have \$111,000 of “unencumbered cash” at the end of this year.

After noting that in a few days we’ll have a proposal on the repair of the Shelley Court sinkhole, Ted announced, “Here endeth my report.”

There was time for one final Citizen Presentation before the Council shooed the common people out of the room in order to discuss a matter suitable only for the ears of the elite. Dennis Collins pointed out that nothing much is happening on the Penn Place parking matter, and we should get that going again. The Mayor said that it was not designated a priority matter by the Council, but Collins and others pressed the question, and Councilmember Wegner noted that Council minutes show a willingness to get moving on it. Peter Benjamin and Karol Soltan then hammered out some wording on a motion to renew the Penn Place Parking committee, and to authorize it to meet with the firm we’ve been dealing with in order to get the plan clarified. The motion passed unanimously.

And there the public part of the Garrett Part Town Council meeting endedeth.

Margaret Soltan



ElderCaring

Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Lifting
- Transferring
- Personal Care & Hygiene

Support Services

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminder
- Physical Therapy
- Light Housekeeping
- Transportation to Appointments

For a free appointment, call 301-949-0060
eldercaring2@aol.com

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
Co-presidents: Gene Brantly
Jack Mandel
Vice president: Matt Stavish
Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi
Secretary: Laura Krupp

Bugle staff:
Editor: Barbara Collier (Box 191)
Reporters: Mary Moyer (Box 98)
Anne Mizoguchi (Box 256)
Laura Krupp (Town Office: 933-7488, garrett-park@comcast.net)
Margaret Soltan (Box 518)
Carol Davies Lillie (Box 351)

Graphic design: Linda Paine
Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)
Subscriptions: Jane Salomon (Box 227)

Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by email to Barbara Collier. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Leaf Removal: Autumn is upon us, and soon the leaves will be falling thick and fast. As before, Bethke Landscaping will be removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 17 and continuing until December 31. Each street will be cleared once a week, as early in the week as possible (rain delays collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery, and do not shred the leaves. If you have any problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Trash Collection After Holidays: The following holidays are observed by our trash contractor: New Year's Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. When any of those days fall on a collection day, the missed collection is not made up, and the next collection will be on its normally scheduled day. If a Monday is missed, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste and recycling are collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

Yard Waste Removal: Remember, November through February, yard waste is collected the first Monday of each month. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

Children and Leaves: Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park's quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

We're Green Again!

Thanks this month for our green banner go to an anonymous donor. It was a joy to receive your check for \$37 so many months ago. Send checks (since our fund is dry in two months) and memorial information to Mary Moyer, Box 98.

jill designs, llc

Want to make your house look fabulous?

Shop from the comfort of your home for custom window treatments, reupholstery, slipcovers, bedroom ensembles, decorative pillows—as well as exciting new color schemes—and more!

jill designs provides personalized service with a flair—competitive prices—to fit every budget. We invite you to call today to set up an appointment so we can begin to make your house your home.

\$100 OFF
any order
over \$1000
with this ad

301-762-7740 • Cell 301-928-9550
jillskahn@earthlink.net • By Appointment Only

It's Back...

...and more horrifying than before. The Haunted Porcupine Woods will once again teem with creepy evil slimy beings and things on Saturday, October 29, from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Before that, at one in the afternoon, there'll be pumpkin carving at the basketball court outside the woods. Please bring your own pumpkins, carving tools, and trash bag.

Jack-o'-lanterns will be judged between 6:15 and 7 that evening, so bring your already carved jack-o'-lantern to the basketball courts between 6 and 6:15.

The Black Market and the Citizens Association will provide light refreshments. They hope you'll wear your costume to all these events. You might remember that for last year's Haunted Woods night, the weather was cool and clear, and the sky dark. It made for a spectacular sight, with all the lit-up jack-o'-lanterns and the eerily dressed townspeople. Last year, adults seemed to have as much fun as kids, mingling with their neighbors at the basketball court and just enjoying the sight of the town parading itself in its autumn splendor.

Let's make it just as magical this year.

In case of bad weather, carving and judging will take place at the Town Hall. If you're able to help with any of the Haunted Woods events, please call Matt Stavish.

Weymouth Street Block Party

The rain stopped for an entire day. The clouds even parted for a brief moment now and then. And good fortune smiled in many other ways, too, upon the Weymouth Street block party fundraiser for hurricane victims on Sunday, October 9. A substantial—and very generous—crowd turned out to share food, conversation, and the music provided by two local bands. In addition to spirits, funds were indeed raised; the event generated a staggering \$1275 in contributions, which GIVES is passing on to the American Friends Service Committee, earmarked for aiding victims of hurricane Katrina. (Some details of the AFSC relief effort can be found at <http://www.afsc.org/hurricane/default.php>.) Many gracious thanks to the spirited givers who made this event such a smashing success! Thanks also to Larry Roberts, Nancy Walz, Donal McLaughlin, Glenda Ingham, and the many other friends and neighbors who conceived and helped to realize this philanthropic and really fun extension to our annual block party.



John Bennett

Town Council 2, Citizens 0

They did it again. The Town Council proposed and voted on yet another resolution at the Town Council meeting on October 10, 2005, on an issue that was not on the agenda. This makes at least the second Council meeting in a row since I have been counting that this has happened. Once again the sky would not have fallen if the item was postponed and included on the agenda for the November Council meeting. I guess our town government feels that the citizens are not important enough to be informed of issues in advance of a vote.

I was discussing notification to citizens with one of my neighbors, and she said, "It seems like we hear about things after they happen." Well, at least for the last two Council meetings, she—and everyone else who was not at the meeting, which is the most of the town—is right. (I recall that a few Council members mentioned in their campaign speeches how important it is to communicate with citizens. Even one Councilmember has been asking for information a number of times and has not received it.)

Now I do not believe it is a requirement for the Town Council to notify the town before taking a vote. But if you are interested in following a particular issue, especially if you feel that it may impact the community or you in an adverse way, it just seems reasonable that there would not be a vote on any issue unless it is on the agenda, so that citizens can obtain information and express their views before. Some of us would rather spend time helping our children with homework, taking a walk, or watching the Monday night football game, and not have to wonder if something that we are interested in is being introduced for a vote.

If you agree that citizens should have advance notice before the Council votes, let them know. The schoolbooks for my 2nd and 6th graders show that one of the roles of a good government is to inform and educate citizens. Maybe one Councilmember who says keeping the citizens informed is an important role of the government can step up to the plate and introduce a resolution to this effect—but only, of course, after it is noted in the agenda, and if we are lucky, the proposal is available in advance for review and comment.

When I was talking to one person in the town government recently about communication, he explained to me that things are the way they are because government is a reflection of the community. Maybe he is right. If the community continues to accept poor service in the way of communication from elected and paid persons in the town government, then we will continue to receive poor service from our town government. It's your call.

Charles Berry

Changing Times

What would Grace E. D. Sprigg, late of 4710 Waverly Avenue, make of the shiny green metal contraption at the corner of Montrose and Waverly Avenues? In her day she had opinions about related matters (or matter). Of course, her kitchen wasn't full of plastic bags, and her daily paper did not come packaged in such a bag, but perhaps she would question a town budget so elastic as to provide plastic bags for dog excrement.

Marian Green

Strathmore Issues

The September *Bugle* correctly quoted my statement at the September Town Council meeting: "We still do not have any control of traffic. Why has this project taken so long?" However, this brief statement by no means conveys the tenor of my remarks and the frustration I share with many Garrett Park residents. A few points are worth repeating; many of them were made in my five minute talk to the Town Council:

- We were promised that all work would be completed by July 4. It was still in progress at the time of the Town Council meeting.
- Strathmore Avenue's street lights are not fully installed in the manner dictated by the contract (the light output is too high and the glass is transparent rather than translucent). Although we were assured that the replacements would be commenced within one week after the Town Council meeting, nothing more appears to have been done. One side of Strathmore Avenue remains unlit.
- Considerable inconvenience was caused by the unexpected installation of beautiful cobblestone crossings at several Strathmore Avenue intersections. Besides requiring that additional money be paid to contractors who were already far behind schedule, it is not at all clear what was accomplished by this addition.
- The contracts did not contain a penalty clause, although imposing a financial incentive to complete work on time is standard wording in many construction contracts.
- I need not repeat the recurring complaint about the incompletely operating traffic light at the intersection of Kenilworth and Strathmore (it can finally be controlled by pedestrians but cannot yet control vehicular traffic); the flashing yellow is a signal of Maryland's lack of concern for the citizens of Garrett Park.

Parenthetically, the sign at the intersection of Strathmore and Montrose that is supposed to flash when school is in session (thereby lowering

(continued next page)

Letters to the Editor (cont'd)

the speed limit) remains inoperative. The leaves on some of the newly planted trees are turning brown prematurely, a sign of the poor design of the earth around the tree balls. The future portends discussions on a speed limit of 19 miles per hour; at the same time neither Maryland nor Garrett Park appears capable of enforcing the requirement that vehicles stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk. And so on and so on and so on.

It is not enough to state that "It's a state project and we're pretty much at their mercy." Who is in charge of the "state project"? To whom do they owe responsibility? Why don't the members of our Town Council invite these state authorities (who are nameless but must exist) to attend the next Town Council meeting and explain the inefficiency of this project?

I hope that some attention will be given to this matter by our town officials and that they will persuade the State of Maryland to fulfill its responsibilities and demonstrate the accountability owed to all citizens in a democratic society.

Peter J. Cohen

Focus on Garrett-Waverly Park

The Parks and Open Space committee would like to invite all Garrett Parkers to an outdoor focus group meeting on Saturday, November 5, at 8:30 am at the basketball court in Garrett-Waverly Park, adjacent to Penn Place. The goal of this meeting is to review current maintenance of the area and discuss any ways to improve or enhance its use. (This is the area where the community gathers after the 4th of July parade.) If it rains, we will meet in the Penn Place first floor meeting space (where artwork is currently displayed). We hope you will come out and share your thoughts on the use of the Garrett-Waverly Park area—one of the most visible parks in town!

We can discuss a number of issues, including whether the area is underutilized given the number and frequency of visitors to Penn Place. Would this area be more inviting if we provided amenities such as benches at the perimeter of the green space, or installed a small piece of play equipment for toddlers at the entrance to Porcupine Woods? The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) recently replaced the deteriorated stone retaining wall at the tennis courts with a timber retaining wall. There is some interest in working with M-NCPPC to replace the existing deteriorated concrete basketball court or install a macadam overlay, and to improve control of storm water runoff.

The decision to hold this focus group was based on results from a survey that was taken several years ago, in which town residents were asked for comments on the use of public parks and open space. The majority of survey respon-

dents felt that our parks and open spaces should continue to be used for natural and recreational purposes, and that these areas should be well maintained. At that time, the Parks and Open Space committee, whose role is to provide recommendations to the Town Council on these issues, recommended a few initial work items, which were implemented (infant swings and some painting). Then the committee slipped into hibernation.

The committee met again this September and decided to focus on the maintenance issue because of its high priority among survey respondents. Currently, routine maintenance (such as cutting, weeding, raking, and repairs) is performed as needed and as determined by the Town Administrator and Maintenance Supervisor. The committee discussed developing a written plan for maintenance tasks and any repairs, alterations, or improvements, which could be reviewed by the committee annually to develop recommendations to the Town Council. We also discussed sponsoring volunteer clean-up events and exploring various funding sources for potential projects.

The committee is focusing on the larger town-owned properties that do not have buildings; these include Porcupine Woods, Cambria Park and ball field (west of the pool), the Garrett Park tennis court (east of the pool), and the green space between Penn Place and Garrett-Waverly Park. The committee also considers the M-NCPPC parks: Wells Park on Rokeby and Garrett-Waverly Park, which includes two tennis courts, a basketball court, and some green space. The town does not control the use of M-NCPPC space, but it maintains the open space at Garrett-Waverly Park and can discuss repair, alteration, or improvement projects with M-NCPPC.

Committee members are Gerilee Bennett (Chair), John Bennett, Charles Berry, Gene Brantly, and Chris Keller, with Karol Soltan as Council liaison. Please contact Gerilee if you would like to join the committee (she made a special request for additional women, as she is outnumbered) or to obtain a copy of the survey response and summary.

Charles Berry

Have you just won the "Best Stressed Contest"?
Need to take a "time out" for you? • Life too hectic? Need to chill?

Yoga

at

Garrett Park Town Hall

could help!

Tuesdays: 8:00–9:15 pm

Fridays: 9:15–10:30 am

➤ 7 weeks • \$95 <
\$18 drop-in

September 6–October 21

October 25–December 16

No classes Thanksgiving Week

with **Jackie Hoffman, M.A.**

Certified Yoga Instructor • Exercise Physiologist • 20 years experience

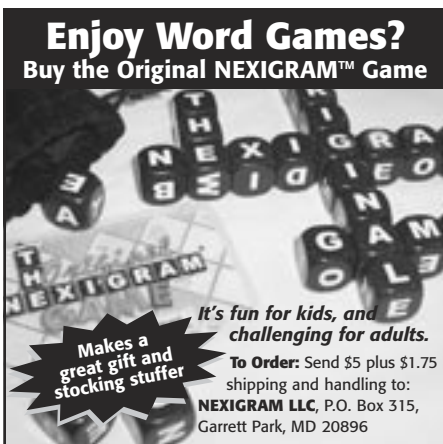
Register with Jackie

jackiesemail@verizon.net • www.jackiehoffman.com • 301-588-9369

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Cathy and John Rinzel are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, born October 11 in New York City. Their son Mike and wife Charlotte haven't decided on a name as of this writing, but the boy has dark curly hair at the moment and arrived in great shape and crying away. Congratulations to all.
- ♪ Do you have a disaster supply kit made up? Pack enough for three days of roughing it, including water, medicines, nonperishable food, portable radio/TV with batteries, extra sunglasses, house and car keys, stuff for your pets, cash, and extra clothes. Also keep extra copies of important papers on a mini CD for quick reference (birth certificates, insurance policies, bank info, phone numbers and current photographs). If you would like a complete list, call Mimi Keister (301-468-0606).
- ♪ The October issue of *Cosmo Girl* magazine had the daughter of Amy Gootenberg (granddaughter of Florence), on page 128 and 131, modeling teen-age fashions. Looked pretty good, too!
- ♪ Correction: In September, the *Bugle* ran a Sweet and Sour Note naming four girls who had sold lemonade on Labor Day to raise money for Katrina. It was not Jill Joseph but her daughter who ran the lemonade stand with the other girls.
- ♪ In September, Patty Guay-Berry and Pat Keating competed in the Kensington Make-a-Wish triathlon at Bethany Beach, Delaware, raising over \$500 to assist children with cancer. Thanks to Pat Rye and Bill Spinard for contributing to this event, which raised over \$500,000 to make dreams come true. Also, on October 1, Patty placed third for women in the 9th annual "Becca's 5K Run" at St. Bernadette's in Silver Spring. With over 1,000 participants, the event raised funds for the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and celebrated the life of Becca Lilly, who lost her 6-year struggle with brain cancer as a teenager.
- ♪ Lori Sampson of Clermont Avenue would like to remind us that her show, Stephen Sondheim's "Company," continues until November 19. She has a featured role in the musical, presented by the Kensington Arts Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays at 8, plus Thursday November 10 and 17. Performances are at the Kensington Armory, off Connecticut Ave behind Safeway (for info, go to www.katonline.org). And if you have an Entertainment 2005 book, there is a 50-percent-off coupon for tickets in the "Attractions" section (it expires Nov. 1, but it will probably be in the 2006 book).

Enjoy Word Games?
Buy the Original NEXIGRAM™ Game



It's fun for kids, and challenging for adults.

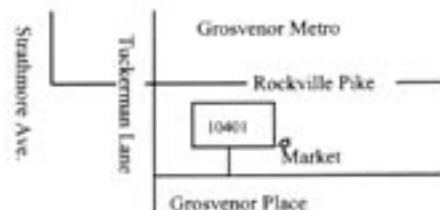
Makes a great gift and stocking stuffer

To Order: Send \$5 plus \$1.75 shipping and handling to:
NEXIGRAM LLC, P.O. Box 315,
Garrett Park, MD 20896

GROSVENOR MARKET

9-9 MONDAY-SATURDAY
9-6 SUNDAY

Fast, Friendly, Convenient Service
(301) 493-6217



Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.
11540 Rockville Pike
N. Bethesda, MD 20852

Home Service Connections

Long & Foster has created a network of the finest local service providers—from home repairs and improvements to interior decorating and landscaping—to help you prepare your house for sale or turn your new house into a home. Search Home Service Connections online for a directory of vendors for license and insured contractors in our area.

www.longandfoster.com/connections

Questions? Call 888-447-4244 or
Mimi at 301-468-0606

North Bethesda/Rockville/Kensington
WHERE THE ACTION IS IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Thinking of selling? Call
Mimi, GRI, RLS
Agent
Realtor MD & DC
301-468-0606 (office)
mimi.keister@longandfoster.com



Once upon a time
everything was handcrafted.

Some things still are.

The art of portraiture is alive.

Les Henig
PHOTOGRAPHY

301-933-5762
www.LesHenig.com



Letter from the Mayor

Please take a moment to remember why you and your family have chosen to live in Garrett Park. Was it because of the open spaces around many of the houses? Was it the architectural variety of the houses? Was it the different sizes of the houses? Was it the large number of trees and the green nature of the town? Was it the park-like nature that the founders of the town envisioned? Was it the sense of community and the opportunity to participate in a community? Was it the wide age range of the residents? Was it the almost mythical small town life? Or was it a combination of all of the above?

Over the years since Garrett Park became a chartered town in 1898, various measures were taken to preserve the aspects of our town that have led us to choose to live here. In fact, the town was created to preserve qualities that the people wanted to preserve. Residents wanted to protect their wells from the effects of a septic system that was required for the first flush toilet in town. They got a town charter, elected an anti-flush town government, and made the lady who owned the flush toilet remove it.

In the early 1950s, the swimming pool and the tennis court next to it were created as a park to prevent a bridge over the railroad and road into the Randolph Hills development being made. (Building roads through parks was prohibited.) You have noticed that there is only one way into the town, Strathmore Avenue. The Town Council closed the borders to the town to protect it from encroaching development in June 1959. In the 1970s, Garrett Park was listed on the National Historical Register. The factors that led to this designation included a romantic town plan, the open parklike quality of the town, and a variety of houses that illustrate over 100 years of architecture: Victorian houses, Chevy houses, Sears houses, an early poured concrete house, the early modern designs of Al Richter, and Better Homes and Gardens designed houses. It was noted that the town provided accommodations for a broad variety of people, from singles, to young families, to the elderly, and a broader economic range of

housing than in other communities. Also in the 1970s the whole town became an arboretum, and the town began a plan to plant a great variety of trees and shrubs. In 1993 the town became the first residential Overlay Zone in the county to help preserve all the qualities listed above.

There are a large number of people living in town today who happily remember growing up in Garrett Park. The preservation efforts by earlier generations of townspeople have given us the town we are living in today. I have heard from a number of residents that they are concerned about the new houses that have been built near them. They feel that some of these houses block the light and air flow around their smaller homes. They are concerned about the loss of large trees and a sense of privacy. They are concerned about the grading that has affected the flow of storm water. We have the town's Setback Ordinance and the County Zoning Code. Zoning regulations make it possible for large numbers of people to live together in communities. I am hoping that we think very carefully about how we can preserve the things that have caused us to choose to live here and make the necessary choices that not only preserve, but also enhance our community. If additional regulation is required to do this, let us reason together and search together to find how best to make the changes that are needed to preserve Garrett Park for the children of today, who will want to be next generation of homeowners in Garrett Park.

Carolyn Shawaker

GIVES News

GIVES wishes to thank everyone from all over town who came to the Weymouth Street block party and hurricane fundraiser on October 9 (see story, p 3). GIVES is sending the funds to the American Friends Service Committee for its special immediate action plan to aid victims with food, help evacuees to find suitable housing, purchase necessities, and underwrite short and mid-term work, focusing on the working poor and African-American and immigrant communities. In addition, the collections in the GP Post Office the first Saturday of November and December will be sent to help the Katrina victims.

Note also that a GIVES meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 9, at 7 pm. Reminder postcards will be mailed. We hope to keep it brief, but as a nonprofit association, we are required to meet periodically, and it has been a while. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers for 2006 (we could use you!), we will elect officers for 2006, and an update will be given on the program. Light refreshments will be served. Please plan to attend. Questions: Call Glenda Ingham or Karen Anderson.

Experience matters

Jeremy Lichtenstein has been helping buyers and sellers in Garrett Park for over 17 years.

There truly is just *one* name in real estate.

Jeremy
The One Name in Real Estate



JEREMY LICHTENSTEIN • RE/MAX REALTY SERVICES
301.252.0389 • 301.347.4121
WWW.JEREMYHOMES.COM



Film Society Notes

Ah, Thanksgiving... A time to get together with family and friends ... and wonder why the hell we went out of our way for this! So, what could be better than to (1) watch someone else suffer through Thanksgiving instead of us and (2) get the benefit of the Thanksgiving meal without the aggravation?

That's why we think you'll love coming to the Garrett Park Film Society screening of *Pieces of April*, on Friday night, November 11. Come at 7:15 pm for your first Thanksgiving meal of the season—though Anne Mizoguchi's cooking is going to set the bar extraordinarily high. The menu includes a roulade of turkey and cornbread-sausage stuffing, green beans, and pie. And wine.

The tart, wryly funny dramedy begins at 8 pm and will strike a chord with anyone who views the holiday season with a mixture of expectation and weary resignation. Peter Hedges (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape*) guides a terrific cast through his affectionate depiction of a family's strained Thanksgiving reconciliation. The story concerns April, the twenty-something, proverbial black sheep of the family, who moved out of the family house to a dismal Lower East Side apartment as soon as the opportunity arose. Now, learning that her domineering mother is dying and prodded by her new boyfriend to re-open contact, she extends the olive branch and invites the family to Thanksgiving dinner at her place. It should only be that easy... The entire clan bundles into the car to make the trip into the city—Mom, Dad, pothead brother Timmy, stuck-up sister Beth, and senile Grandma. Of course, as she's getting ready to put the turkey in the oven, April has an uninvited guest: Murphy, whose law declares that anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

Pieces of April will be shown at the Garrett Park Town Hall, Friday night, November 11. Dinner will be offered beginning at 7:15 pm. The film follows at 8 pm. There is no charge for members of the Film Society for the movie. Nonmembers may pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door.

Wanted for Spring Musicale '06

A fundraising event for the GP Elementary School music scholarship, the annual Garrett Park Musicale, will take place on a Sunday afternoon in April next year at the Town Hall. Every year it has been a tradition for the Town Singers to open and close this fun music event. All interested singers are welcome. This year we are very short on male singers, especially tenors. Ahoy, any tenors out there? If you are interested in joining the group, please call Sue Petito or Meme Lincoln.

Visit Garrett Park's Website:
www.garrettpark.org/

GP Elementary School

The construction has begun—slowly. There is a new fence (temporary) up around the construction site. Do not try to walk that way; it will be a big mud puddle after all the rain.

Have you noticed the fir tree in the circle in front of the nursery school? It has seen many better days. M-NCPPC has been called to come look and then remove it, but so far they have not responded. Maybe by the time this is printed something will have been done. There should be plenty of scrap wood (not good for the fireplace) if anyone wants a memento.

The wax museum was a big success. Now the chorus is gearing up for a concert in the beginning of December. Club notices will be sent out in the next couple of weeks so that the clubs can start. Cheerleading, knitting, yoga, environmental, math games, books, and cooking are just some of the selections this year. Don't you wish you could go back to school?

Our annual Halloween parade will be held on October 31. Over 700 children from GPES, Holy Cross Elementary, the day care center, and the nursery school will walk along Oxford to Clermont and back to their schools. This will give all the children a chance to see each other. Feel free to come stand by the side of Oxford and watch also. The parade will begin sometime around 1:15 pm from the GPES front parking lot.

Mary Moyer

Jobs List

We need names for the snow shovel and baby sitting list for the winter months. If anyone 13 years or older would like to be put on the list, please either email or call Carol Davies by November 5, and leave a name, age, phone number, and description of the jobs you would like to do. And remember, everyone, the sidewalks in front of your house are yours to shovel so that pedestrians do not have to walk in the street. They need to be clean (the sidewalks, that is, not the pedestrians) within 24 hours.

Nursery School Craft Fair

The 39th annual Garrett Park Nursery School Crafts Fair is on November 19 and 20 this year at the Town Hall, from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free; over 40 crafters will be displaying their wares. All proceeds benefit the nursery school, a 50-year-old cooperative for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds.

Robin Grossfeld

Traffic !

Come to the next Garrett Park Citizens Association Meeting (Wednesday, October 26, at 8 pm in the Town Hall) and hear about development on Rockville Pike, the latest news on the ASHA property, GPCA actions for pedestrian safety, and a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Garrett Park streets to 19 mph.